PRESCRIBED BURNING PLANNED TO ENHANCE NATIVE PRAIRIE HABITAT ON PUBLIC LANDS IN WEST EUGENE

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, plans to conduct prescribed burning on lands located within the boundary of the West Eugene Wetlands and adjacent to the eastern shoreline of Fern Ridge Reservoir.

The prescribed burning will be conducted within the next several weeks if weather conditions are favorable. Erratic, gusty winds or abundant precipitation will prohibit the planned projects.

The BLM has prepared plans and received approval to burn approximately 103 acres on seven separate units administered by the BLM, and the Corps. The BLM will provide the trained personnel, equipment and supplies necessary to safely and efficiently conduct the burns.

The units identified for burning include: **Fisher Butte (RNA)**, 70 acres, and **Fisher Butte West**, 16 acres, managed by the Corps, located north of Highway 126; **Balboa Unit**, 6 acres located west of Danebo Street and north of West 11th Street; **Oxbow West**, 1 acre, adjacent to Amazon Canal, between Green Hill Road and Danebo; **Green Hill Prairie**, 10 acres, located west of Green Hill Road and north of the railroad track; **Fir Butte Plots**, west of Fir Butte Road, adjacent to Amazon Canal and the **Long Tom (ACEC)**, 6 acres, between Franklin Road and Clear Lake Road, east of the Long Tom River.

The objectives for the prescribed burning are to enhance the native wetland prairie plant community, including the federally listed species, Lomatium bradshawii and Erigeron decumbens. In addition, the fire is intended to kill or suppress the reed canarygrass monoculture and woody vegetation which dominate some areas.

Historically, fire was a component of a healthy wetland prairie ecosystem. In the twentieth century, many of these lands were converted to agriculture use and fire was excluded. In the past decade, prescribed fire has been used as a management tool to restore wetland prairie habitat.

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